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53 Wing Airmen to join NCO corps

■ By **Tech. Sgt. Tonya Keebaugh**
53d Wing Public Affairs

Fifty-three Airmen in the 53d Wing will be moving to the noncommissioned officer corps during the next 12 months. At a promotion selection rate of 40.49 percent, the wing selection rate was slightly higher than the Air Combat Command rate of 40.24 percent and slightly lower than the Air Force rate of 40.91. Selectees were notified August 11 of their promotion.

"I was shocked ... I hugged my commander," said Senior Airman Jeffrey Hearth, 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron here.

Another wing Airman preparing to sew on her fourth stripe was also surprised at the news.

Senior Airman Noemi Gonzalez, Detachment 1, 28th Test Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev., said she was preparing to leave for the day when one of her supervisors made an unusual comment.

"Maj. (A1) Hanson said, 'Have a good evening, Sergeant Gonzalez,'" said the information manager. "I was so happy."

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Airman Hearth joins the elite group of people who made staff sergeant their first time testing.

"I know I will be ready to wear this stripe," said the electronic warfare journeyman. "My old supervisor, from Aviano, always told me, 'You're preparing now to be a staff sergeant.'"

One step to help both him and Airman Gonzalez prepare to assume their new rank will be attending Airman Leadership School.

After attending ALS, Airman Gonzalez said she will likely be supervising an Airman.

"If I had made it last year, I thought maybe that might be too soon," said the four and a half-year veteran. "But I'm ready for it now."

Reaching the rank of staff sergeant is significant in an enlisted person's career.

"Promotion to staff sergeant marks the first major milestone in an Airman's career," said Chief Master Sgt. David Cruikshank, 53rd Test and Evaluation Group chief enlisted manager. "You are no longer just an Airman, but an Airman leading Airmen. Attaining NCO status enters one into greater degrees of responsibility and leadership and is a transitory phase toward the next two milestones; senior NCO and chief."

Almost 14,000 Airmen of the 33,306 eligible are preparing themselves for the increased responsibilities of being an NCO.

The complete list of selectees is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's web page, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>.

Each Airman who tested can also get an electronic copy of his or her score notice by logging into the virtual Military Personnel Flight at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>.

The following senior Airmen were selected from the 53d Wing:

16th Electronic Warfare Squadron

James Archer
Eric Brown
James Calzo
William Cohen
Robin Davis
Bryan Ensley
James Bray Gipson
Jeffrey Hearth
Jeremy Jordan
Michael Knudsen
Brett Levine
Kevin Loscheider
Matthew Pond
Patrick Ryan
Stephen Smith
Mark Welch
Antaeus Woodson

28th Test Squadron, Det. 1

Noemi Gonzalez

31st Test and Evaluation Squadron

Stewart Baxter
Mario Delos Santos
Francisco Delpozo
Heather Goodhue
Joshua Gurnee
Nicholas Jackson
Patrick Judge
Charles Sibus

31st TES, Det. 1

Amber Hale

422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron

Erik Roberts
Jeremy Walker

49th Test and Evaluation Squadron

Alexander Cardin
Ryan McGettigan
Jason Minarik

53rd Computer Systems Squadron

Flavius Chorney
Zachariah Grooms

Christopher Whitlow

53rd Test and Evaluation Group

Michelle Pillitiere

53rd TEG, Det. 1

Sonya Brooks

72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron

Jason Redding

81st Test Support Squadron

Peetra Allison
Shaydee Galindo
Justin Mohr
Meagan Nunez

82nd Aerial Targets Squadron

Jason Bancroft
Jeremy Wheeler
83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron
Lolenzia Carson
Nicole Pelletier

85th Test and Evaluation Squadron

Rachella Jones
Eric Pancia
Inbounds
Jared Austin
Edward Youmans
Craig Hemenway
Marlow Dotts
Alana Marie Fleming

By The Number

The average score for those selected was 272.33 points, with the following averages:

- 130.85 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 58.23 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 54.29 Specialty Knowledge Test
- 16.43 Time in Grade
- 10.88 Time in Service
- 0.79 Decorations
- The average selectee has 1.77 years time in grade and 4.39 years in service.
- Those selected will be promoted to staff sergeant from September to August 2005.

Attention all spouses & wing members who have spouses!

The 53d Wing spouses orientation day is Aug. 30, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the Eglin Base Theater. Spouses will get a chance to talk to the wing commander, Col. William Coutts, and hear briefings about the wing mission, family support services, housing issues, the key spouse program and more. All spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend. To RSVP, call Rose Heiden at protocol at 882-7492.

Calling all 53d Wing scientists, engineers

■ By **Capt. Saje Park**
53d Wing Public Affairs

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

If this formula is unrecognizable to you, skip this article. If you don't know how to chart an x-y graph on your TI-85, stop reading. But if you've made it this far and you happen to be a 53d Wing 61S, 62E, GS1515 or a GS engineer, pay attention:

You're invited to pack your calculator and join the rest of the 53d Wing's military and civilian scientists and engineers Sept. 21-23 at the first 53d Wing Scientist and Engineer Conference at the Eglin Officers Club.

More than 217 of the wing's technical professionals are expected to attend the conference, which will feature more than 30 guest speakers and attendees who come from varied backgrounds to include the Air Force Personnel Command, Air Force Institute of Technology and test pilot school.

"This is a terrific opportunity for all of the wing's scientists and engineers in our geographically-separated locations to network and get the latest information on their career field," said Col Bill Coutts, 53d Wing commander. "Our scientists and engineers are absolutely integral to every operational process in the 53d, and we want to ensure they are given ample opportunities to meet each other, learn from each other and get the most up-to-date career path information."

The information presented during the conference is largely

based on the attendees. By registering on the wing intranet, people can shape the content of the conference by voting for training topics of interest, as well as submit questions they would like addressed. Topics that people can choose from include wing test issues, career skills training, communication skills, team building, professional military education and Acquisition Professional Development Program certifications, resume writing, interviewing, mentoring and career building.

"We're bringing in the top experts from the Air Force to inform them on what's going on—we'll talk about force development in S&E and what people need to get ahead in their career," said Greg Hutto, 53d TMG operational analyst and conference coordinator. "We're also providing opportunities for small, interactive break-out sessions for each (Air Force Specialty Code).

Mr. Hutto added that special focus will be concentrated on the junior officers and civilians. Eight AFPC functional managers will be available for the officers, who will get a chance to sit down individually and discuss available assignments.

"This is just a cool opportunity for some of our younger folks—especially those young officers who feel like they're all alone, embedded in a squadron of only operators," said Mr. Hutto. "We want to give people something that they can take home with them—so they can leave with some new tools for their toolbox."

For more information or to register for the conference, go to <https://wwwmil.53wg.eglin.af.mil/crt/>.



Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie F. Kenne is one of 30 featured speakers during the 53d Wing Scientist and Engineering Conference. When she retired, General Kenne was the deputy chief of staff for warfighting integration for the Air Force. She is also the first female ROTC and Air Force Test Pilot School graduate.

Web page emphasizes importance of 'Airmen Votes'

■ By **Master Sgt. Ron Tull**
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas - With less than 80 days to the presidential election, the Air Force has added another tool to its voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate.

Airmen Votes is the name of a new Web page designed to give Airmen, their family members and Air Force civilians all the information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

"Your vote counts. Since 1960 two different presidential elections have been de-

cided by less than 1 percent of the popular vote," said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff. "The absentee voting system has traditionally been fraught with challenges, but we are working hard to make it easier for you to vote no matter where you're located."

The Air Force Personnel Center here hosts the Web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AirmenVotes. It can also be reached through Air Force Link and the Air Force Portal.

The page boils down the essential elements of the federal voting Web site to make registering to vote as simple as possible.

"We wanted to create the ability for our Airmen to be within three mouse clicks of

registering to vote in any state from anywhere in the world," said Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander.

"It is our right and privilege as Americans," he said. "Lives were lost defending this right. There is no excuse not to vote!"

The Department of Defense has teamed up with the U.S. Postal Service to treat balloting materials as priority mail going to and from the voter. A significant change for voters overseas is ballots will receive postal cancellation at the APO or FPO to give a more accurate measure of the date and time a ballot is received into the postal system.

For more information, Airmen should contact their unit voting assistance officer.

news briefs

Wing spouses orientation

Col. William Coutts, 53d Wing commander, is hosting a 53d Wing Spouses Orientation Aug. 30. The event is open to all spouses of wing members and will be held at the Eglin Base Theater from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, or to RSVP, call Rosemary Heiden at 882-7492.

FEGLI Open Season coming up

During September there will be an open season in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program for those who don't currently have FEGLI coverage to enroll and for those who have coverage to increase their coverage. Premium rates and available benefits are not changing, but the open season does offer the rare opportunity to first enroll for those who previously declined coverage, and it waives the usual restrictions against increasing coverage for those who already have it.

53d Wing NCO induction ceremony

The 53d Wing Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony is Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. at the Air Armament Museum. The event is sponsored by the wing Top 4 Association. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Sean Minear at 882-6972.

New per diem rates coming

The General Services Administration will soon announce new per diem rates for federal travelers to be effective October 1. The annual announcement is closely watched not only by travelers themselves, but also by members of Congress whose districts are heavy travel destinations. GSA traditionally has made the announcement around the start of the calendar year, but several years ago switched to making new rates effective at the start of a new fiscal year. For more information, go to <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html>.

'05 Olmsted Scholar Program

The Olmsted Scholar program provides the opportunity to study abroad, obtain a master's degree in a foreign language, and gain an in-depth understanding of the history and social, political, cultural and economic characteristics of a foreign country. Annually, at least five to six active-duty Air

Lefty loosey, righty tighty



Photo by Capt. Saje Park

Senior Airman Andrew Mitchell, 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron technician, performs maintenance on an ALQ-184 Electronic Attack pod coolant pump assembly. The pod is externally mounted on the F-16 and A-10 and provides protection against radar guided surface-to-air and air-to-air threats.

Force line officers are selected to study at an overseas university for two years. Since study must be in a foreign language, selectees attend up to a year of language training before beginning their studies, foreknowledge and ability in a designated foreign language is not a requirement. Participating members incur an active duty service commitment equal to three times the length of training spent in graduate study in a foreign country. Olmsted Scholars may also apply for an advanced degree program at an American university for up to one additional year. The eligibility criteria is contained in military personnel flight memorandum 04-34, dated August 9. AFPC must receive applications no later than Oct. 15, 2004. Interested offi-

ers should mail their application directly to HQ AFPC/DPAPDE, 550 C Street West Suite 32, Randolph AFB, Texas 78150-4734. Officers must submit the ADSC statement of agreement IAW AFI 36-2107. Application procedures can be obtained from the officer developmental education website: <http://afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme>, or through local MPF customer service offices. For more information, go to www.olmstedfoundation.org.

Defense hotline

The Inspector General DoD Hotline can be reached at 1-800-424-9098 or DSN 664-8569, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or e-mailed to hotline@dodig.osd.mil. The Hotline can also be accessed at the DoD, IG website at <http://www.dodig.osd.mil>.

around the AF

AF seeking career enlisted aviators

More than 360 aviator training slots are available for senior Airmen through master sergeants. First-term Airmen assigned to units within the continental United States may not apply before the first duty day of the month in which they complete 35 months of their enlistment (59 months for six-year enlistees). They must apply before the last duty day of the 43rd month of the enlistment (67 months for six-year enlistees). Monthly incentive pay for CEAs depends upon the number of years of their aviation service (not rank), and runs from \$150 to \$400 per month. Contact the local military personnel flight for more information, or visit the dot-mil restricted CEA Web site at <https://www.xo.hq.af.mil/xoo/xoot/xoota/CEA/cea.htm>.

AMC delivers hurricane relief

Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., began operations Aug. 13 to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing emergency relief to areas in Florida devastated by Hurricane Charley. "AMC Tanker Airlift Control Center (began) moving 200 empty cargo pallets to Dobbins (Air Reserve Base), Ga., ... so the aerial port (Airmen there) would be able to prepare relief supplies for airlift as they arrived on base," said Col. Jeff Franklin, TACC director of operations. For more information on this story, go to <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123008411>

Updated Airman's Manual hits streets

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — There is an ongoing drive to distribute more than 675,000 copies of the updated Airman's Manual to all active-duty, Reserve and Guard Airmen. The new version is weatherproof, tear-resistant and fits in the battle dress uniform's cargo pockets. For more information about the Airman's Manual, go to <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123008420>

Bush announces posture changes

The United States will redistribute forces now stationed at overseas locations "where the wars of the last century ended," President Bush announced in Cincinnati Mon-

Back that thing up



Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon II

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Ga. — Airmen of the 437th Airlift Squadron from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., load relief supplies onto a C-17 Globemaster III on Aug. 14. They are supporting Hurricane Charley relief operations being conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Florida.

day. The president's announcement came during an address to the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "The world has changed a great deal," President Bush said, "... and our posture must change with it for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers, and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace." For more on this story, go to <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123008421>

Airmen urged to register before TDY

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas - Airmen deploying between now and the general election Nov. 2 should consider registering to vote with their deployed unit address before departing, according to voting officials at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Registration is accomplished by completing a Federal Post Card Application Standard Form 76. The form and all the state rules can be found on the Airmen Votes Web page available at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes>.

"Registering in advance means the balloting materials will be waiting for them at their forward location," said Mr. John Lowrance, Air Force assistant voting action officer. "Deploying members who do not yet know their deployment address or cannot release it, will need to take some additional steps."

"They'll need to file an SF 76 explaining in the remarks box that no address is available. This will prevent the state from sending balloting materials. All states are different, but many will not resend balloting materials," he said.

Reaching a milestone

82nd ATRS pilot logs 3,000 hours



Photo by Capt. Carlos Diaz

Gordon Pollard, contract E-9 pilot for the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, is welcomed with a hose by his wife, Jerry, and Tech. Sgt. Tim Megee, Tyndall Fire Department, after being the first pilot ever to log 3,000 hours in the Widget aircraft. The 82nd ATRS is the only Air Force unit who flies the E-9.

■ By **Capt. Carlos Diaz**
53d Wing Public Affairs

A member of the 82nd Aerial Target Squadron at Tyndall AFB., Fla., became the first pilot ever to reach 3,000 flying hours on the E-9 Widget Wednesday.

Under the scorching Florida sun, Gordon “Bear” Pollard, a contract pilot with the 53d Wing, reached the milestone during a mission in support of the Weapons System Evaluation Program that included F-15s from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, F-16s from Hill AFB, Utah, and Canadian CF-18s.

“No one has reached the 3,000 hour mark on the E-9 – no



Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Ammons

The E-9 Widget, flown by Gordon Pollard, leads the pack during a Weapons System Evaluation Program mission Tuesday. Mr. Pollard said he felt like a fighter pilot again after his historic flight.

one has flown that jet for that long,” said Maj. Alexis Franco, 82nd ATRS director of operations. “He is the corporate knowledge for our E-9 pilots ... military people come and go, but his knowledge remains in our Squadron. Gordy could probably build you an E-9 if you ask him to.”

Since 1956, the retired Air Force lieutenant colonel has flown approximately 8,100 hours in aircraft including the T-33, F-84, F-100, F-102, F-106, F-4 and the E-9 – almost 600 of those hours were during the Vietnam War.

“My first sortie in the Widget was December 21, 1988,” said Mr. Pollard. “I was the first contractor checked on the E-9.”

His job with the 82nd includes flying over the Gulf of Mexico to scan the area for boats. The area must be cleared for the drones and WESP missions to fly. It’s not all work, however.

“It’s great flying the Widget,” said the Pittsburgh native. “As long as I can pass the physical, I’ll be flying until they kick me out.”

After his flight landed, Mr. Pollard was greeted by family, friends and co-workers on the taxiway. Two fire trucks created an arch of water to welcome him and his trusty E-9 home and to the 3,000 hour club.

As one chapter ends, another begins

Protocol officer leaves mark on wing

■ By **Capt. Saje Park**
53d Wing Public Affairs

Most brides in the '60s registered for china, crystal and silverware. However, it wasn't the latest Lenox pattern Ferne Langevin had her eye on for her 1962 wedding, but a new set of luggage.

Traveling was what the former 53d Wing protocol chief has wanted to do ever since she was a teen, and when she retires Sept. 30 after more than 27 years of civil service as a government employee, Mrs. Langevin will be able to make sight-seeing a full-time occupation.

After all, it was the idea of earning traveling money that initially sparked her journey into federal service in 1976 and led her eventually, to her last assignment at the 53d Wing. During her retirement luncheon recently, the Summersworth, N.H., native's achievements and history with the wing were celebrated by more than 70 friends and coworkers.

"Ferne's dedication and commitment to excellence was clearly evident from the first day I met her," said Col Bill Coutts, 53d Wing commander. "She's an ultimate professional who goes out of her way to ensure people's needs are met—Ferne has been an invaluable member of this wing and the Air Force."

Ferne's duties as chief of Protocol involved coordinating, from start to finish, numerous retirement ceremonies, promotions, changes of command, and VIP visits.

"I've always enjoyed working and serving my country," said Mrs. Langevin, who has also coordinated congressional visits, and trips for the secretary of defense's staff and the chief of staff of the Air Force. "I've met and worked with some great folks along the way."

In fact, Mrs. Langevin says it was working with people that made her want to transition from her last

53d Wing position as the wing commander's secretary to chief of Protocol in January 2003.

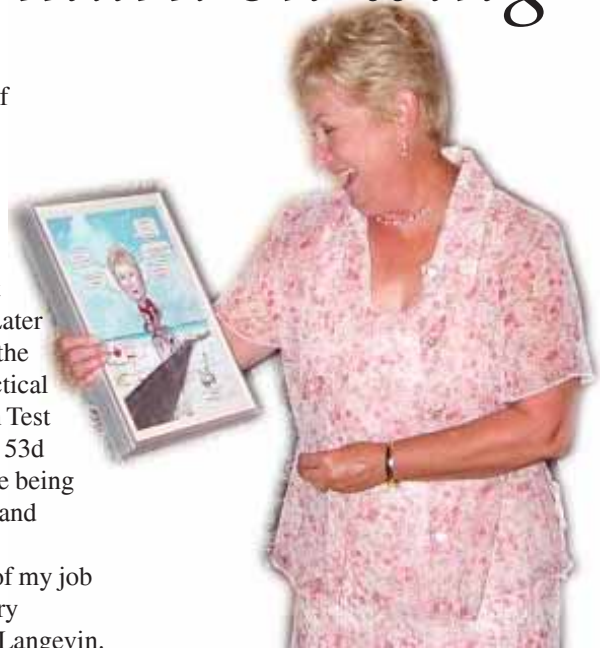
"I love people—so (moving to Protocol) was a natural transition," said Mrs. Langevin, whose first assignment at Eglin was an administrative position at the base hospital in early 1990. Later that year, she began her work at the 53d Wing, then known as the Tactical Air Warfare Center, with the 28th Test Squadron and then moved to the 53d Test and Evaluation Group before being promoted to the 53d Wing command section.

"I've always felt that a part of my job was to make other people feel very welcome in our wing," said Mrs. Langevin. "My goal was to make visitors feel like they wanted to stay by having a fruitful and beneficial visit to the wing. The best part is when they say they can't wait to come back because they've had such a wonderful experience here."

Mrs. Langevin said her work wouldn't have been possible without the help she received from others in the wing. "I couldn't have done my job without everyone who pitches in," she said. "I'm going to miss everyone so much—I'm excited to begin something new, but I'm happy and sad at the same time. I have friends in the wing I will always treasure and I love them dearly."

One of her long-time friends has included her supervisor, Thomas DuBois, 53d Wing director of staff.

"We're going to be sad to see Ferne leave," said Mr. DuBois. "She has brought a touch of class to so many important



Ferne Langevin admires her farewell gift from the 53d Computer Systems Squadron visual information flight – a caricature of her created by Carl Moore, the flight chief. The painting depicted her riding her bicycle along the Gulf Coast, with balloon captions of her well-known sayings, such as "How ya' doin', darlin'."

events. The image people have of the 53d is often shaped by how they are treated when they visit us. Ferne never failed to make us look good."

Planning visits will still be at the top of Mrs. Langevin's to-do list, but now the traveling will be done by her and her husband of more than 40 years, Roger. Roger also retired from civil service Aug. 5 and the pair plan on visiting places beyond their Air Force assignments in Florida, Maryland, Kansas, Germany and Turkey.

"This is another chapter in my life," said Mrs. Langevin. "You know in your heart when you're ready for an opportunity to do something different. I would be very content with a backpack on my back, exploring a new place."

As for everything else she can't fit into that backpack, Mrs. Langevin still has plenty of space wherever she may go—after all, she still uses the same luggage set she received as a wedding present from her mother back in 1962.



Col. William Coutts, 53d Wing commander, presented Ferne Langevin, former 53d Wing protocol chief, with the Outstanding Civilian Career Service Award recognizing her more than 27 years of federal service. Mrs. Langevin retires Sept. 30 and has been a member of the wing for more than 14 years.

Det. 2, 28th TS uses test facility to enhance warfighter capabilities

■ By **Andrew Kay**

Detachment 2, 28th Test Squadron

The 28th Test Squadron's Detachment 2, Tyndall AFB, Fla., recently performed a successful round of Developmental Test and Evaluation and Force Development Evaluation testing in support of both the 53d Wing and other ACC-directed customers.

The mission of Det. 2 is to test the operational effectiveness and suitability of current and future Air Force weapons systems. The nature of Det. 2's Integrated Avionics Test Facility and its several radars and avionics systems makes it an ideal asset for specific customers needing support for testing integrated aircraft avionics, weapons, and electronic warfare systems.

During the past several months, the Det. used the IATF to support Developmental Test and Evaluation of the RC-135V/W Rivet Joint Combat Vision software development, HH-60G APR-39B(V)2 radar warning receiver upgrade, ALQ-188(V)4 Electronic Attack Simulator, and F-16 Modernized Programmable Signal Processor. Also during this time period, Det. 2 engineers and technicians used the IATF for Force Development Evaluation testing of the F-16 M3.3A+ operational flight program and to support Combat Shield exercises.

Rivet Joint: The RC-135V/W RIVET JOINT is a surveillance aircraft equipped with sophisticated intelligence-gathering equipment which enables the military specialists to monitor the electronic activity of adversaries. Detachment 2, 645th Materiel Squadron needed the IATF so they could collect electronic data to test the development of their new Combat Vision software. During the tests, the IATF successfully provided the needed free-space radar signals from several different weapon systems along with the necessary supporting data for use to improve and evaluate the Combat Vision software. The goal of the new Combat Vision software is to provide enhanced ground-based and airborne radar threat situational awareness to the aircrew with minimal threat ambiguity.

HH-60G Pave Hawk: The primary mission of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter is to conduct day or night operations into hostile environments to

recover downed aircrew or other isolated personnel during hostile actions. To improve the capability of the HH-60G to detect and respond to threat systems, the HH-60G Combined Test Force is developing a new radar warning receiver called the Integrated Electronic Warfare Suite. They came to the 28th TS's Det. 2 to qualify their radar warning receiver on the HH-60G with flight tests against the radar systems in the IATF. The tests were a success and the HH-60G Combined Test Force will use the captured data to refine their radar warning receiver suite and potentially define future tactics for the warfighters – both on helicopter and fighter aircraft.

ALQ-188(V)4: The AN/ALQ-188(V)4 is an advanced air-to-air threat simulator currently under development by the Air Force's Quick Reaction Center. The ALQ-188(V)4 will provide real-world threat jamming techniques, as well as generic jamming waveforms to combat air forces' aircrews as part of their electronic combat training programs. Furthermore, the 188(V)4 consolidates the capabilities of several threat simulators to include the ALQ-188A, ALQ-188B, and the ALQ-188(V)3 allowing for ease of user maintenance and operational training. The IATF performed several successful ground test missions of the 188(V)4 revealing

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Integrated Avionics Test Facility, Det. 2, 28th Test Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

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several hardware and design limitations which ultimately led to engineering design changes in system development.

F-16 Modernized Programmable Signal Processor: The F-16 MPSP is a reliability and maintainability upgrade from the original Programmable Signal Processor. The MPSP will replace much of the older internal circuitry with integrated circuits, but is required and designed to preserve the form, fit and function of the PSP. In parallel with flight testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., Hill AFB, Utah, and the manufacturing contractor, the IATF engineers conducted a series of ground tests on the MPSP to further characterize how closely the new unit can do the job of the original PSP and highlight any problems. The IATF F-16 flight uncovered several capabilities and limitations of the system that were previously not identified and provided this information back to the MPSP community and contractor to make the necessary fixes.

F-16 M3.3A+: M3.3A+ greatly enhances F-16 capabilities with Link-16, Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System, SNIPER, AIM-9X, AIM-120C-5 and other avionics improvements. The IATF tested the M3.3A+ operational flight program during seven ground test and four flight test missions by evaluating the AN/APG-68 radar's electronic protection capabilities against numerous jamming systems on the Tri-Service Top 20 Electronic Attack

Threat List. The IATF also evaluated the AN/APG-68's data link support to AIM-120 AMRAAMs while the radar was being jammed. The overall FDE assessment was no degradation in radar EP or data link support performance.

Combat Shield: The 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron's Combat Shield events are conducted to provide on-site analysis and feedback on the readiness of unit electronic combat systems, assist unit personnel in the diagnosis of electronic combat system discrepancies, and provide observations and recommendations to improve the overall readiness of electronic combat systems. The IATF provided Combat Shield support to the 493rd Fighter Squadron, Lakenheath AB, UK, during their Air-to-Air Weapon System Evaluation Program visit to Tyndall AFB. The missions were a flight test success and the IATF found discrepancies among independent aircraft electronic combat systems. The data collected by the IATF and the 493rd FS will be used for follow-on Combat Shield events occurring with the 493rd FS at Nellis AFB, Nev.

Det. 2's recent round of testing will continue over the next several months as the engineers and technicians plan upcoming scheduled test missions to support F-16 M3.4+ FDE, F-15 Suite 5 FDE, Advanced Threat Alert Response Geolocation and Specific Emitter Identification DT&E, ALQ-131 and ALQ-184 Mission Data Optimization, ALQ-184 Block Cycle III Upgrade, and ALQ-213 Countermeasures Management System Tape2.0B FDE.

53d Wing Annual Picnic

Tickets are for sale now for the 53rd Wing Picnic to be held at Eglin's Post 1 Point, Friday Sept. 10 from 11 a.m. This event is open to all 53d wing members and their families.

Food, music and sports will be included in the \$1 per person, \$2 per family ticket price - and a dunking booth will be available for your favorite co-worker to cool off. Be sure to cast your votes before Sept. 9.

For more information and details, contact Tech Sgt. Julie Morris at 882-1602, Staff Sgt. Starla Hall at 2-5830 or access the picnic website at: <https://www.mil.53wg.eglin.af.mil/MILWEB/picnic/default.asp>



WE SHARPEN THE SWORD



Tech. Sgt. William Roe
72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron
Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Duties: Program Security Manager.

Hometown: Burbank, Calif.

Family: Wife, Kathie; son, David; and daughter, Elizabeth.

What's the best part of your job?:
"Being on the cutting edge of technology and having a great rapport with comrades in my specialty."

What's your most memorable Air Force moment?: *"Going to Saudi Arabia – the satisfaction of involvement in wartime taskings is the greatest accomplishment a servant of our country can attain."*

What's the best career advice you've received?: *"Be careful what you ask for – You might get it."*

What's your current interest?:
"Raising my children and enjoying married life to the fullest."

FEATHERS

of the wingspan



Unit: 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron

Location: Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Commander: Lt. Col. Britton Bankson

Personnel strength: 60

Unit mission:

The 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron executes operational test and evaluation of the B-2 Stealth Bomber weapon system and develops and evaluates new tactics, ensuring the B-2 remains an effective instrument of global power and formidable strategic deterrent.



Current top projects

- IFC P3 (SatCom, Smart Bomb Rack Assembly)
- JASSM
- JDAM-82
- Survivability
- Working several on-site modifications to the WST

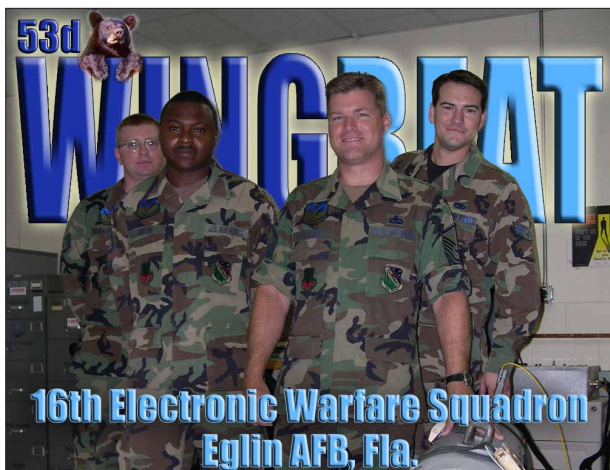
'Gee whiz' facts

- The 72nd was founded in 1918 and has flown 29 different aircraft
- The 72nd flag has 14 outstanding unit award ribbons
- The 72nd mascot is the coyote
- The 72nd has flown twice as much this year than in its busiest previous year
- Lt. Cols. "Woody" Bankson and "Turbo" Ter Wee and Maj. "Pags" Paganoni have flown all 21 B-2 Bombers
- All three of the above mentioned pilots are members of the "1000-hour" club with more than 3,500 hours in the B-2 between them
- Maj. Paganoni is on track to eclipse the all-time B-2 flying-hour mark established in Oct. '03 by former 72nd commander, Lt. Col. Richard "V+10" Vanderburgh.

**Today we did what we had to do.
They counted on America to be
passive. They counted wrong.**

-- President Ronald Reagan





What would you like to see become an Olympic event?



Senior Airman Mark Welch
Electronic Warfare Technician

"Fear Factor-style eating contest – like for the Greek Olympics you could dine on goats' eyes."



Master Sgt. Joe Drexler
Conventional Flight Chief

"After extensive thought, I believe we should add something challenging – such as duck-duck-goose."



Staff Sgt. Cliff Lawton
Advanced Programs Team Leader

"Since World Championship Poker is so popular now, I think Poker Tournaments should be added to the Olympics."



Staff Sgt. Tim Schang
Advanced Programs Team Leader

"Instead of adding an Olympic event, I think we should just drop the events we feel we won't get a gold medal in."



Billy the Beer Bear
Washington beer connoisseur

"How's about a Rainier Beer-drinking contest?"



Above – Lt. Col. Scott Brown shares a moment with his wife, Barbara, during his retirement ceremony Aug. 13 at the Air Armament Museum. He worked in the 28th Test Squadron and served 23 years in the Air Force.



Left – Lt. Col. Paul Dowden (left) receives his retirement certificate from Col. George Gagnon, 53d Wing

vice commander, Monday. Colonel Dowden was the commander of the 28th Test Squadron and served more than 20 years in the Air Force.

Below – Col. George Gagnon, 53d Wing vice commander, talks with Lisa Salmons, spouse of Lt. Col. Scott Salmons, commander of the 29th Training Systems Squadron, during the Wing Leadership spouses orientation. (Second from left) Col. Bill Coutts, 53d WG commander, and his wife, Vicky, welcome other spouses.



STORK'S NEST



Courtesy photo

Welcome Abby Rose

Maj. Bob Dreyfus and his wife, Susan, welcomed their baby girl, Abigail Rose Dreyfus, July 15 at 8 a.m. Abby weighed in at 6 lbs., 9 oz., and was 18 and a half inches long. Major Dreyfus is assigned to the 49th Test and Evaluation Squadron at Barksdale AFB, La.



Send us your photos for our SALUTES section! We will print almost any photo showing wing people in action, doing great things for our Wing and the Air Force! E-mail photos to tonya.keebaugh@eglin.af.mil

SELG group



Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Bis

Almost 60 senior noncommissioned officers from across the wing descended on Eglin last week for the 4th Annual Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference. Topics ranged from enlisted assignments to professional military education to the role of the first sergeant. The last day of the conference was cancelled due to the threat of a tropical storm to the area.

53d Wing salutes

Wax on, wax off



Photo by Capt. Carlos Diaz

Tech. Sgt. Julie Morris, 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron, helped raise more than \$300 towards the 53d Wing Picnic during a car wash here Wednesday. The picnic is Sept. 10 at Postl Point. There is a \$1 fee per wing member or a \$2 fee for families. For more information, contact Sergeant Morris at 882-1602.

Sweets for the SELC



Photo by Capt. Saje Park

(L to R) Senior Master Sgt. Donna Dorton, 53d Electronic Warfare Squadron first sergeant; Tech. Sgt. Sondra Cannady and Amn. Jessica Parker, 53d Wing command staff; and Kim Collins, wife of Chief Master Sgt. Dave Collins, 53d WG command chief, prepare gifts Aug. 9 for the Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference attendees.

WINGSPAN
Best Newsletter in ACC for 2003

The *Wingspan* is published by the 53d Wing Public Affairs Office exclusively for members of the 53d Wing. Contents of the *Wingspan* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the U.S. Air Force. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. Inputs may be submitted from <https://www.mil.wg53.eglin.af.mil/Intranet>, under the "News" tab, or e-mailed to: tonya.keebaugh@eglin.af.mil. Deadline for inputs is close of business Monday. For more information, call 882-3435 or DSN 872-3435.

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